

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINS KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES APPEALS TO PRESIDENT PARK

1. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES --KOREA (NCCC-K)
MET IN SPECIAL SESSIONS AFTERNOON APRIL 17 AND MORNING
APRIL 18 ON (1) INDICTMENT FOR MISUSE OF CHURCH FUNDS
OF NCCC-K SECRETARY GENERAL REV. KIM KWAN-SOK AND THREE
PASTORS INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION, AND (2)
RECEPTION TO BE GIVEN WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DELEGATION
DUE TO ARRIVE IN KOREA MAY 3 IN LIGHT OF ANTI-SLANDER
LAW AND GROWING IMPATIENCE OF ROKG WITH CHURCH PROTEST.
NCCC-K ALSO RENEWED APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF PASTORS
CHARGED WITH FUND MISUSE, REQUESTED MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT PARK TO DISCUSS CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS AND
RECOMMENDED PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE FOR WCC DELEGATION.

2. ACTING NCCC-K SECRETARY GENERAL REV. KIM YUN-SIK,
WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ROK TOLD
EMBOFF THAT COUNCIL DECIDED TO ASK PRESIDENT
DIRECTLY FOR MEETING RATHER THAN PRIME MINISTER WHO
HAD REFUSED TO MEET COUNCIL MEMBERS ON APRIL 4.
CONCERN OVER HOW ROKG MAY USE NEW ANTI-SLANDER
LAW AND PROBLEM OF GROWING COUNCIL DISUNITY AND
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DEFENSIVENESS UNDER MOUTING GOVERNMENT PRESSURES AND

ATTACKS FOREMOST ON COUNCIL'S MIND. CLEARLY KCIA
DIVISIVE TACTICS WORKING EFFECTIVELY.

3. WITH REGARD TO INDICTMENT OF REV. KIM AND THREE
OTHER PASTORS, COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT
UNDER HEAVY KCIA PRESSURE, REAL SUPPORT FOR ACCUSED
IS RAPIDLY ERODING. CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS, WHO LONG
RESENTED POLITICAL ACTIVISM OF KIM KWAN-SOK, ARE NOW
VENTING RESENTMENT AND TAKING REVENGE BY BACKING OFF
FROM SUPPORTING HIM. THEY CONSIDER DIVERSION OF
FOREIGN CHURCH FUNDS ITSELF AS DISHONEST. SUCH
IS DIVISION OF COUNCIL THAT IT UNABLE TO AGREE ON
REQUESTING STATEMENT FROM GERMAN CHURCH DONORS IN
SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS. THERE IS ALSO FEAR THAT FOREIGN
CHURCH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPROVAL OF USE OF THEIR
FUNDS FOR PROTESTS COULD INTRODUCE ISSUE OF FOREIGN
FINANCING OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, THUS INCREASING
JEOPARDY OF ACCUSED AND LEADING TO MUCH TIGHTER
GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF SUCH FUND USES IN FUTURE.
MOREOVER, SPATE OF STORIES ARE NOW CIRCULATING
IN MISSIONARY AND KOREAN PROTESTANT CIRCLES, DISCREDITING
PERSONAL HONESTY AND CHARACTER OF REV. KIM AND HIS
FELLOW ACCUSED.
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